



Image RCE 11617

PTO/SB/30 (08-00)

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/671,283
Filing Date	27 September 2000
First Named Inventor	John A. GIORDANO et al.
Group Art Unit	1617
Examiner Name	Shengjun WANG
Attorney Docket Number	48508-00004

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____.
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.
iii. ☐ Other: _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other Supplemental Reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.114.

2. Miscellaneous.

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. ☐ Other: _____

3. Fees. The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any underpayments or overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1067.
- i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(d).
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17).
- iii. ☐ Other: _____
- b. ☒ Check no. 16271 in the amount of \$ 770.00 enclosed.
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed).

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name	Don J. Pelto	Registration No.	33,754
Signature		Date	15 January 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. 09/671,283
Applicant John A. Giordano et al.
Filed 27 September 2000
TC/Art Unit 1617
Examiner Shengjun Wang

Confirmation No. 6590

Docket No. 48508-00004
Customer No. 23767

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the issues raised by the Examiner in the Advisory Action mailed on 5 December 2003 (Paper No. 20031203), Applicants respectfully request consideration of amendments to the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.